

CLAIMS

1. A programmable television services client device for enabling a user to search for television program information, said client device comprising:

memory for storing data;

display configuration information contained in said memory that includes a guide arrangement, wherein said guide arrangement is configured in a search format for displaying at least one prompt for user input designating at least one television program search parameter; and

a processor configured to cause a search result related to said television program search parameter to be displayed on a viewing device, wherein said processor is responsive to user input.

2. The programmable television services client device of claim 1, wherein the displayed search result includes a television program title.

3. The programmable television services client device of claim 2, wherein the displayed search result includes a television program starting time and identifies a television channel.

4. The programmable television services client device of claim 1, wherein a search result is selectable through user input.

5. The programmable television services client device of claim 4, wherein said processor is further responsive to user selection of a search result by causing a television program identified in the search result to be displayed on the viewing device.

6. The programmable television services client device of claim 1, wherein said viewing device is a television screen.

7. The programmable television services client device of claim 1, wherein said client device is coupled to a programmable television services server device.

8. The programmable television services client device of claim 1, wherein a television program search parameter includes a time period.

9. The programmable television services client device of claim 8, wherein the time period is selected through user input from a list of two or more time periods displayed within the search format.

10. The programmable television services client device of claim 9, wherein a default time period selection consists of the current day and the following day.

5 11. The programmable television services client device of claim 9, wherein a default time period selection is the current day.

12. The programmable television services client device of claim 8, wherein the time period is specified through user input.

10 13. The programmable television services client device of claim 8, wherein the displayed search result is related to a television program that is scheduled to be broadcast during at least a part of said time period.

15 14. The programmable television services client device of claim 13, wherein the displayed search result includes a television program title and a television program starting time.

20 15. The programmable television services client device of claim 8, wherein a search result is selectable by subsequent user input.

25 16. The programmable television services client device of claim 15, wherein said processor is further responsive to user selection of a search result by causing a television program identified in the search result to be displayed on the viewing device.

30 17. The programmable television services client device of claim 1, wherein a television program search parameter includes a sequence of characters.

18. The programmable television services client device of claim 17, wherein the user input is received via a television remote control device.

35 19. The programmable television services client device of claim 17, wherein the user input is received via a remote keyboard.

20. The programmable television services client device of claim 17, wherein the user input is received via a keyboard coupled to the programmable television services client device.

21. The programmable television services client device of claim 17, wherein the search result displayed on the viewing device is related to a television program title that contains the sequence of characters in the search parameter.

5 22. The programmable television services client device of claim 21, wherein the displayed search result includes a television program title.

23. The programmable television services client device of claim 22, wherein the displayed search result includes a television program starting time.

10 24. The programmable television services client device of claim 23, wherein the displayed search result identifies a television channel.

15 25. The programmable television services client device of claim 17, wherein the search result displayed on the viewing device is related to a television program description that contains one or more of the characters in the search term.

20 26. The programmable television services client device of claim 25, wherein the displayed search result includes a television program title.

27. The programmable television services client device of claim 26, wherein the displayed search result includes a television program starting time.

25 28. The programmable television services client device of claim 27, wherein the displayed search result identifies a television channel.

29. The programmable television services client device of claim 17, wherein a search result is selectable by subsequent user input.

30 30. The programmable television services client device of claim 29, wherein said processor is further responsive to user selection of a search result by causing a television program identified in the search result to be displayed on the viewing device.

31. A method for implementing a programmable television services client device to enable a user to search for television program information, said method for implementing a programmable television services client device comprising the steps of:

5 implementing display configuration information in a memory that includes a guide arrangement, wherein said guide arrangement is configured in a search format for displaying at least one prompt for user input designating at least one television program search parameter; and

10 causing a search result related to said television program search parameter to be displayed on a viewing device, wherein said processor is responsive to user input.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the search result includes a television program title.

15 33. The method of claim 32, wherein the search result further includes a television program starting time and a channel number.

34. The method of claim 31, wherein the search result is selectable through user input.

20 35. The method of claim 34, further comprising a step of causing said processor to be further responsive to user selection of a search result by causing a television program identified in the search result to be displayed on the viewing device.

36. The method of claim 31, wherein said viewing device is a television screen.

25 37. The method of claim 31, wherein said client device is coupled to a programmable television services server device.

38. The method of claim 31, wherein a television program search parameter corresponds to a time period.

30 39. The method of claim 38, further comprising a step of causing the time period to be selected through user input from a list of two or more time periods displayed within the search format.

35 40. The method of claim 39, further comprising a step of causing a default time period selection to consist of the current day and the following day.

41. The method of claim 39, further comprising a step of causing the default time period selection to be the current day.

42. The method of claim 38, further comprising a step of causing the time period to be specified through user input.

43. The method of claim 38, further comprising a step of causing the displayed search result to be related to a television program that is scheduled to be broadcast during at least a part of said time period.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein the search result includes a television program title and a television program starting time.

45. The method of claim 38, further comprising a step of causing a search result to be selectable through subsequent user input.

46. The method of claim 45, further comprising a step of causing said processor to be further responsive to user selection of a search result by causing a television program identified in the search result to be displayed on the viewing device.

47. The method of claim 31, wherein a television program search parameter comprises a sequence of characters.

48. The method of claim 47, further comprising a step of causing the user input to be received via a television remote control device.

49. The method of claim 47, further comprising a step of causing the user input to be received via a remote keyboard.

50. The method of claim 47, further comprising a step of causing the user input to be received via a keyboard coupled to the programmable television services client device.

51. The method of claim 47, wherein the search result is related to a television program title that contains the sequence of characters in the search term.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein the search result includes a television program title.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein the search result includes a television program starting time.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein the search result includes a television channel.

55. The method of claim 47, wherein the search result displayed on the viewing device is related to a television program description that contains the sequence of characters in the search term.

56. The method of claim 55, wherein the search result includes a television program title, starting time, and channel.

57. The method of claim 47, further comprising a step of causing a search result to be selectable by subsequent user input.

58. The method of claim 57, further comprising a step of causing said processor to be further responsive to user selection of a search result by causing a television program identified in the search result to be displayed on the viewing device.